

MINUTES OF REGULAR MEETING  
SUGAR CITY COUNCIL  
THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 12, 2015

Presiding: Council President Lamont Merrill  
Meeting Convened at 6:30 p.m.  
Prayer: Burch Drake  
Pledge of Allegiance

Present: Council President Lamont Merrill; Clerk-Treasurer Wendy McLaughlin; Councilmen Bruce King and Burch Drake; Vice Chair Christine Lines of the Planning and Zoning Commission; David Caleb Despain of the *Standard Journal*, Students Barbara Kraus, Katie Rex, Arian Byrd, Medelyn Frame, Brett Palmer, Trenton Brower, Braxton Clingler, Tyler Summers, Cyndel Yates, Brittany Thomson, Bryce Adams, Miranda Stanten, Ben Goff, Carter Smith, Eric ..., Kathryn Hyer, Michelle Nelson, Amiee Jackson, and Victoria Richardson; Citizens Matt Garner, Wm. Bruce Arnell, Sharon Bell, and Bert McLaughlin.

Council President Merrill asked if there were any corrections to the minutes of the regular meeting held on January 22, 2015. Each councilman had a copy of the minutes prior to the meeting. It was moved by Councilman King and seconded by Councilman Drake to accept the minutes; motion carried.

**RECONCILIATION REPORTS:** Wendy presented the January reconciliation reports for the General Fund. It was moved by Councilman Merrill and seconded by Councilman Drake to accept the January reconciliation reports for the General Fund; motion carried. Wendy presented the January reconciliation reports for the Utility Fund. It was moved by Councilman Merrill and seconded by Councilman Drake to accept the January reconciliation reports for the Utility Fund; motion carried.

Wendy presented the current bills in the amount of \$88,025.73, which includes the Ricks Addition lift pump capital improvement of approximately \$11,600.00. It was moved by Councilman King and seconded by Councilman Merrill to pay the current bills, together with all regular February bills; motion carried.

**DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE APPOINTMENT OF MAYOR & OATH OF OFFICE:** Council President Mont Merrill initiated the discussion and possible appointment of a new mayor to fill the vacancy created by the resignation of Mayor Glenn W. Dalling Jan. 8. The council expressed their gratitude to Mayor Dalling for his lifetime of excellent service to Sugar City and commented on the positive condition of the city's finances and records. President Merrill read a statement sent out with the February utility bills, which he felt expressed the sentiments of the city and council:

*"We would like to express our sincere gratitude and appreciation to Mayor Dalling for his many years of exceptional service to Sugar City and her citizens. His wise guidance and counsel have always been made with the best interests of the city at heart. His contributions are immeasurable. It is with fondness and sadness that we let him go. We wish him and his family the best in the coming years."*

The council had voted (see January 22, 2015, minutes) to wait until tonight to appoint a new mayor to give residents of the city a chance to express any interest in being considered for the mayoral appointment. Planning and Zoning Commission Chairman Dave Ogden was the only citizen to express interest. However, he is unable to serve now due to health issues and recommended that the city do what was in its best interest.

Council Vice President Bruce King read a prepared statement on the mayoral decision before the

council: "Upon the resignation of a mayor, state statute directs that the City Council appoint someone in or out of the council as mayor pro tempore to serve until the next general election and that the council fill the vacancy as a majority of its members deems best for the city. Since leading a city effectively requires a body of knowledge that is learned over time, and since the city currently faces serious issues, some pressing, and since my colleagues on this policymaking board have proven themselves to be honest and wise, moving the city forward judiciously under the balanced tutelage of their able mentor Mayor Glenn Dalling, I believe we should appoint one of them to fill the vacancy. To my way of thinking, Council President Mont Merrill is the obvious choice, since he is retired and in good health...."

**MOTION:** It was moved by Councilman King and seconded by Councilman Drake to appoint W. Lamont Merrill as mayor pro tem of Sugar City to serve until the next general election to complete Mayor Glenn W. Dalling's term, which ends December 31, 2015. Thereupon the clerk called roll upon the motion.

Those voting aye: Councilmen King, Drake and Merrill

Those voting nay: None

Thereupon the council president declared that the motion, having been passed by not less than two-thirds of the council, had been duly carried. Council President Lamont Merrill was then sworn in as mayor of Sugar City.

**DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE APPOINTMENT OF NEW COUNCIL MEMBERS & OATH OF OFFICE:** Mayor Lamont Merrill moved forward to fill the two vacancies on the council, which were created by his appointment as mayor and by Councilman Vaun Waddell's resignation to pursue other interests last week. The council expressed their sadness at Vaun's resignation, noting his tremendous intellect, skill, and tireless energy. Mayor Merrill recommended Bruce Arnell to fill his (Merrill's) seat on the council. The council was not privy to Mayor Merrill's recommendation before the meeting. After a brief discussion, the council moved to accept the appointment.

**MOTION:** It was moved by Councilman Drake and seconded by Councilman King to accept Bruce Arnell to fill the remainder of W. Lamont Merrill's council term, which ends December 31, 2015. Thereupon the clerk called roll upon the motion.

Those voting aye: Councilmen King and Drake

Those voting nay: None

Thereupon the mayor declared that the motion, having been passed by not less than two-thirds of the council, had been duly carried.

Mayor Merrill recommended Matt Garner to fill Vaun Waddell's seat on the council. The council was not privy to Mayor Merrill's recommendation of Mr. Garner before the meeting. After a brief discussion, the council moved to accept the recommendation.

**MOTION:** It was moved by Councilman King and seconded by Councilman Drake to confirm Matt Garner as councilman to fill Vaun Waddell's seat on the council. Thereupon the clerk called roll upon the motion.

Those voting aye: Councilmen Drake and King

Those voting nay: None

Thereupon the mayor declared that the motion, having been passed by not less than two-thirds of the council, had been duly carried. It is understood that both of these appointed councilmen will serve through the end of the year. This fall, they can stand for election November 3 if they choose. The seat now occupied by Arnell will be up for a four-year term, while the seat occupied by Garner will be up

for a two-year term, completing Waddell's term, which ends December 31, 2017. Both Councilmen Arnell and Garner were sworn in before the meeting continued.

**MOTION:** It was moved by Councilman King and seconded by Councilman Garner to amend the agenda to include discussion and possible election of a new city council president and vice president; motion carried.

**DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ELECTION OF CITY COUNCIL PRESIDENT AND VICE-PRESIDENT:** The council affirmed Councilman King's capacity to serve as president, having served nine years on the council with great ability.

**MOTION:** It was moved by Councilman Arnell and seconded by Councilman Drake to elect Councilman Bruce King as president. Thereupon the clerk called roll upon the motion.

Those voting aye: Councilmen Drake, Garner, and Arnell  
Abstaining: Councilman King

Thereupon the mayor declared that the motion, having been passed by not less than two-thirds of the council, had been duly carried.

The council then affirmed Councilman Burch Drake's capacity to serve as vice president, having served four years on the council with great ability.

**MOTION:** It was moved by Councilman King and seconded by Councilman Arnell to elect Councilman Burch Drake as vice president. Thereupon the clerk called roll upon the motion.

Those voting aye: Councilmen King, Garner, and Arnell  
Abstaining: Councilman Drake

Thereupon the mayor declared that the motion, having been passed by not less than two-thirds of the council, had been duly carried.

**P&Z APPOINTMENTS:** The council discussed and accepted two more appointments to the Planning and Zoning Commission. Council members were delighted that Christine Lines will continue to serve and that Barbara Carpenter has consented to serve.

**MOTION:** It was moved by Councilman Drake and seconded by Councilman King to confirm the appointments of Christine Lines and Barbara Carpenter to the commission. Thereupon the clerk called roll upon the motion.

Those voting aye: Councilmen King, Drake, Garner, and Arnell  
Those voting Nay: None

Thereupon the mayor declared that the motion, having been passed by not less than two-thirds of the council, had been duly carried.

Christine Lines will serve as vice chair of the commission until Commission Chairman Dave Ogden is able to resume full duty. Barbara Carpenter will serve until December 31, 2017. Brent Barrus's appointment was confirmed at the last council meeting on January 22. He also will serve until December 31, 2017.

**PLANNING & ZONING COMMISSION REPORT:** Vice Chair Christine Lines reported on the current business of the commission.

- Welcomed Brent Barrus to the commission
- Scheduled public hearing for Thursday, March 5, 2015, on the River Bend Ranch proposed zone change from a R1 to R3
- Elected officers – Dave Ogden, chairman; Christine Lines, vice chair; Tom Fleming, secretary; and Eileen Kershaw, assistant secretary
- Received plat review instructions from City Attorney Bill Forsberg
- Approved Joseph Nixon’s home business
- Reviewed comprehensive plan in relation to grid system

Mayor Merrill suggested that the commission refer to the August 2010 additions to the comprehensive plan when considering new development plans. A layout system other than a grid system need not create a snag.

**MAIL DELIVERY DECISION:** The council discussed the mail delivery system in regards to having post office boxes versus street mail boxes. Information will be gathered from the city’s Public Works Director Zane Baler before approaching Sugar City Postmaster Richard Miller. City Attorney Bill Forsberg will also be asked for recommendations on mailbox placement. The council does not favor mailboxes on Center Street. June 1 is the deadline for the post office mailbox proposal to go into effect.

**ANIMAL ORDINANCE REVISIONS:** Councilman King will draft the first phase of revisions to the animal ordinance, changing misdemeanors to infractions and addressing recommended changes to prohibited animals, chickens, and bees from former Councilman Vaun Waddell and others. The council will consider the draft at the next meeting. The newest council members will be sent the current animal ordinance and public comment summaries to review over the next two weeks.

**SOCCER GOALS AND PARK FEES DISCUSSION:** The cost for six moveable soccer goals, two larger sets and two smaller ones, will be around \$2,000. AgriTech will build the goals and donate their time if we will let them put their business logo on the goals. The council discussed briefly park fees and the use of different parks for soccer practice.

**MOTION:** It was moved by Councilman King and seconded by Councilman Garner to authorize expenditure of up to \$3,000 for goals and nets per Councilman Waddell’s letter of February 1, 2015; motion carried.

**TRAINING MEETINGS:** The council approved three training meetings for city staff members – Public Works Director Zane Baler to attend a water training meeting to keep current his water and sewer certifications, and Clerk-Treasurer Wendy McLaughlin to attend clerk and treasurer training meetings.

**MOTION:** It was moved by Councilman Arnell and seconded by Councilman Drake to authorize the training for both Zane and Wendy; motion carried.

**PUBLIC WORKS OFFICE DISCUSSION:** The bid to remodel the existing garage/storage room at city hall into a new office for Zane came in a little over \$14,000. The council decided to use the money on other needed projects in the city, with Zane to retain his existing office in the shop of city hall.

**DEPARTMENT REPORTS:**

- COUNCILMAN DRAKE:** No report
- COUNCILMAN KING:** No report
- COUNCILMAN ARNELL:** No report

**COUNCILMAN GARNER:** No report

**MAYOR'S BUSINESS:**

**Mayor Merrill:**

**Rural Planning Organization (RPO):** Results of a new study of 2<sup>nd</sup> East in Rexburg by an engineering firm using computer modeling indicate that making the busy four-lane street into a one-way southbound road and expanding 5<sup>th</sup> West in Rexburg to carry northbound traffic would better alleviate traffic congestion along 2<sup>nd</sup> East than constructing the proposed East Parkway Corridor further to the east.

**Tri City Wastewater Agreement:** Sugar City and Teton want to take advantage of the extra capacity they could share if Sugar were to bill Teton directly for sewage-handling services provided by Rexburg. Rexburg currently bills Teton directly for processing Teton City sewage.

**Forsgren Water Study:** Sugar City will pay Forsgren Associates the remaining \$2,000 it owes the engineering firm in return for delivery of a copy of its study of Sugar City's water and sewer infrastructure.

Meeting adjourned at 9:30 p.m.

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_  
W. Lamont Merrill, Mayor

Attested: \_\_\_\_\_  
Wendy McLaughlin, Clerk-Treasurer